

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: POTTER, J.)
Serial No. 09/608,816) PATENT
Filed: June 30, 2000) Group Art Unit: 3637
Title: Prefabricated Modular Deck System) Examiner: Dorsey, D.
Amendment

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Official

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action of December 3, 2002 please enter the following
Amendments and Remarks to the above-captioned application.

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (amended three times) A modular deck panel apparatus for a deck structure including a plurality of underlying joist elements, each one of said plurality of joist elements having a top longitudinal surface, said modular deck panel apparatus comprising:

a plurality of modular panels, each of the plurality of modular panels having a first substantially planar element being relatively inflexible, each of said plurality of modular elements having a thickness dimension;

a second substantially planar element disposed beneath the first planar element and secured thereto, said second planar element being relatively flexible in relation to the first planar element; and

a plurality of elongated members, a first portion of the plurality of elongated members being secured at intervals along top longitudinal surfaces of a series of underlying joist elements, and a second portion of the plurality of elongated members spanning between successive joist elements and engaging the first portion of the plurality of elongated members to restrain the plurality of modular panels, said first portion of the plurality of elongated members extending

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FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

A REGISTERED LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

225 SOUTH SIXTH STREET

SUITE 4850

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-4320

TELEPHONE: 612/321-2800

FACSIMILE: 612/321-9600

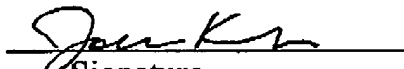
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DATE: March 3, 2003**FILE:** 10111203**TO:** Attn: Examiner Dorsey, D.**COMPANY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office**FAX NO.:** (703) 872-9327**FROM:** John F. Klos**SENDER'S****PHONE:** 612-321-2806**NO. OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 8****RE: SERIAL NO. 09/608,816****ATTACHED: RESPONSE 8 PAGES**Certificate of Facsimile Transmission Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

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